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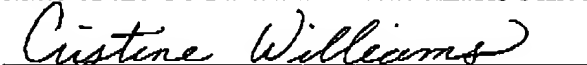
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**FAX COVER LETTER**

January 5, 2004

**TO:** Examiner Akers  
**COMPANY:** USPTO  
**PHONE:** 703-308-1113  
**FAX:** 703-872-9327**FROM:** Steven C. Lieske  
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**RE:** 09/550,583**COMMENTS:**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to Examiner Akers of the US Patent and Trademark Office on January 5, 2004.

**Cristine Williams**

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Serial #: 09/550,583  
In reply to Office action mailed: November 3, 2003  
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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Serial #: 09/550,583  
Applicant: Silverstone et al.  
Filed: April 17, 2000  
Title: AN INFORMATION PORTAL IN A CONTRACT MANUFACTURING FRAMEWORK  
  
TC/AU: 3624  
Examiner: Geoffrey R. Akers  
Docket #: 060021-358401  
Customer #: 29,838

## CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

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*Cristine Williams*  
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## AMENDMENT

In response to the Office action mailed November 3, 2003, please find the following sections:

| Section  | Starting on Page |
|--|------------------|
| Amendments to the Claims as reflected by a Listing of Claims | 2                |
| Remarks/Arguments  | 8                |